

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04057 011613Z

43

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MEETING JULY 31, 1975. AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES

REF: STATE 179558

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S STATEMENT TO
THE DPC ON AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

CONCERNING AUTUMN FORGE, MY AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT THIS
SERIES OF EXERCISES MARKS AN IMPORTANT CONCEPTUAL INNOVATION
FOR THE ALLIANCE, FOR IT PROVIDES A COMMON PRE-HOSTILITIES
SCENARIO AND THUS MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR A VARIETY OF EXERCISES
ALREADY SCHEDULED TO BE BROUGHT INTO A COMMON FOCUS, AND FOR
US TO DRAW BETTER THE LESSONS FROM EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN THE
SAME GENERAL FRAMEWORK. THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES, WE BELIEVE,
ALSO WILL HELP FURTHER EMPHASIZE AND PUBLICIZE NATIONAL PAR-
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PAGE 02 NATO 04057 011613Z

TICIPATION BY THE ALLIES IN THE NATO DEFENSE EFFORT; WILL HIGH-
LIGHT NATIONAL COMMITMENTS; AND WILL PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING, CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION AMONG OUR FORCES.

WE NOT ONLY STRONGLY ENDORSE THE AUTUMN FORGE CONCEPT, BUT

ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE PUBLICLY OUR SOLIDARITY AS REFLECTED IN THE COMMON PARTICIPATION IN THE EXERCISES AND THUS SHOULD GIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY TO THIS SERIES.

THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS CIRCULATED A LIST OF THE EXERCISES INCLUDED IN THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES IN CMCM 50/75, AND I UNDERSTAND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ALREADY IS DISCUSSING A PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES THAT WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN THE DPC AT A LATER DATE. AS I HAVE SAID, THE U.S. FAVORS AN ACTIVE PRESS POLICY, AND WE URGE OUR ALLIES TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING THIS POSITIVE APPROACH.

WE ALSO BELIEVE A DISTINCTION MUST BE DRAWN, HOWEVER, BETWEEN SUCH AN ACTIVE PRESS POLICY TOWARD THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES AND THE ISSUE OF MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CSCE CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES. THE LATTER, AS WE KNOW, ARE TO BE REPORTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND WE NEED TO DEVELOP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AN ALLIED APPROACH TO DEALING WITH PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

FIRST, WE BELIEVE THAT, ALTHOUGH AUTUMN FORGE IS NOT IN FACT A SINGLE EXERCISE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE ALLIES TO PRE-ANNOUNCE THE SERIES IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CBM'S. SUCH VOLUNTARY PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OVERALL SERIES OF EXERCISES NEED NOT INCLUDE THE DETAILS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN NOTIFICATION OF SUCH MAJOR COMPONENT EXERCISES AS REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE, BOTH OF WHICH EXCEED 25,000 MEN AND THUS CLEARLY MEET CBM CRITERIA.

SECOND, TO ALLOW TIMELY PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 6, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DPC REQUEST THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN FROM SACEUR BY AUGUST 6 ADVICE ON THE CONTENTS OF PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT, INCLUDING A DRAFT TEXT, BEARING IN MIND THE PROVISIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT. THE DPC THEN COULD MEET AUGUST 8 TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED CONTENTS OF THE NOTIFICATION AND TO DISCUSS AND HOPEFULLY AGREE UPON THE MODALITIES FOR NOTIFYING CSCE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF WHICH ALLIES WOULD NOTIFY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. THE CURRENT WORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN THIS SPHERE DOUBTLESS WILL BE HELPFUL.

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PAGE 03 NATO 04057 011613Z

FINALLY, SINCE OUR APPROACH TO CBM'S AFFECTS ALL ALLIES, WE BELIEVE THE ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD APPRISE THOSE NOT REPRESENTED IN THIS BODY OF OUR DELIBERATIONS.

IN SUMMARY, MR. CHAIRMAN:

(A) WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONCEPT WHICH UNDERLIES THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES OF EXERCISES.

(B) WE FAVOR AN ACTIVE PRESS POLICY TO ATTRACT MAXIMUM PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE SERIES.

(C) WE BELIEVE THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES SHOULD BE PRE-ANNOUNCED IN GENERAL TERMS TO CONFORM WITH THE SPIRIT OF CSCE. INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES EMBRACED IN THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES COULD BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY, AS WELL. OF COURSE, THE TWO MAJOR EXERCISES, REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE, EXCEED 25,000 MEN AND

WOULD NEED TO BE NOTIFIED.

(D) WE RECOMMEND THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ASK SACEUR
TO PROVIDE BY AUGUST 6 ADVICE ON THE CONTENT OF THE NOTIFICATION
OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES AND A SUGGESTED TEXT, LOOKING FOR-
WARD TO FURTHER DPC DISCUSSION ON AUGUST 8.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD WELCOME THE COMMENTS OF MY COLLEAGUES
ON THE VIEWS I HAVE ADVANCED.
END TEXT. STREATOR

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